

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 15 and 55 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 16, and 50 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid transfer device for enhancing durability of an image on a printed surface of a printed product printed with ink, comprising:
  - a liquid transfer member having a liquid to be transferred onto the printed surface of the printed product;
  - a transfer surface that is adapted to contact the printed surface of the printed product and transfer the liquid onto the printed surface of the printed product;
  - a liquid accumulating portion accumulating the liquid;
  - a restricting portion, formed from a porous film formed with fine pores, configured to supply the liquid in said liquid accumulating portion to said transfer surface with restriction; and
  - a lid adapted to cover the printed product from a side of the printed product opposite from said transfer surface,wherein said porous film has a thickness of 10 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , and diameters of the fine pores are in the range of 0.1 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ,
  - wherein the liquid in the liquid accumulating portion is supplied to the printed product through the porous film by a depression force applied through said lid, and

wherein the liquid is at least one selected from a group consisting of fatty acid ester, silicon oil, modified silicon and fluorinated oil.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a holding member for receiving and holding said liquid transfer member.

4. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed from a sheet form member having uniform density.

5. (Previously Presented) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said holding member includes a surface supporting frame formed with an opening portion exposing said restricting portion and a dish shaped receptacle member having a flange mating with a lower surface of said surface supporting frame, and said liquid transfer member is received within a receptacle space defined by said receptacle member and said surface supporting frame.

6. (Previously Presented) The liquid transfer device as claimed in

claim 1, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed from a sheet form member having a different density in a thickness direction thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed from a sheet form member provided with treatment for continuously varying a density in the thickness direction with a predetermined gradient.

8. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed by laminating a plurality of sheet form members having different densities.

9. (Currently Amended) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 1, wherein capillary forces of said liquid accumulating portion[[,]] and said porous film ~~and the printed surface of said printed product~~ are set for establishing a relationship:

liquid accumulating portion < porous film ~~← printed surface of printed product.~~

10. (Previously Presented) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 8, wherein densities of respective sheet form members forming said liquid accumulating portion are set for producing a greater capillary force at a closer position to

said transfer surface.

11. (Previously Presented) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed with a first layer and a second layer having different densities, said first layer is located at a position more distant from said transfer surface than said second layer, and said first layer has a greater density than said second layer.

12. (Previously Presented) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 11, which further comprises a holding member receiving said liquid transfer member, said holding member including a surface supporting frame having an opening portion, into which said first layer covered with said restricting portion is inserted, and a dish shaped receptacle member having a flange mating with a lower surface of said surface supporting frame,

wherein said second layer is received within a receptacle space defined by said receptacle member and said surface supporting frame, said first layer covered by said restricting portion projects upwardly from a surface of said surface supporting frame, and a surface of said restricting portion forms a transfer zone.

13. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first layer and said second layer are formed from a fibrous body or a foamed

sponge body, a density of said first layer is in a range of 0.05 to 0.5 g/cc, and a density of said second layer is in a range of 0.01 to 0.2 g/cc.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim ~~15~~ 1, wherein stripe form grooves are formed on a bottom surface of said liquid accumulating portion.

17.-49. (Canceled).

50. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A liquid transfer method for enhancing durability of an image on a printed surface of a printed product printed with ink, comprising the steps of:

providing a liquid accumulating portion and a restricting portion, the liquid accumulating portion accumulating the liquid and the restricting portion being configured to restrictingly supply the liquid in the liquid accumulating portion to a transfer surface that is adapted to contact the printed surface of the printed product; and

transferring the liquid supplied through the restricting portion onto the

printed surface of the printed product by mounting the printed surface of the printed product on the transfer surface in contact therewith and by applying a depression force through a lid that covers the printed product from a side of the printed product opposite from the transfer surface,

wherein the restricting portion is formed from a porous film formed with fine pores, the porous film having a thickness of 10 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$  and diameters of the fine pores being in the range of 0.1 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , and

wherein the liquid is at least one selected from a group consisting of fatty acid ester, silicon oil, modified silicon and fluorinated oil.

51. (Withdrawn) The liquid transfer method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the printed surface of the printed product has an area greater than the transfer surface, and the printed surface is contacted with the transfer surface dividedly for a plurality of times.

52.-55. (Canceled).

56. (Previously Presented) The liquid transfer method according to claim 50, wherein the printed product has an ink receptacle layer containing silica particles or aluminum oxide particles.